



# Australian Biological Farming Conference 2018

## Plenary and Concurrent Sessions

Saturday and Sunday, 10 – 11 November 2018

<http://www.australianbiologicalfarmingconference.org>



Australian Biological Farming  
Conference and Expo 2018

Saturday 10 November 2018 ~ Southern Cross University ~ Gold Coast Campus

9.00 to 10.30am	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Professor Susan Nancarrow</b> Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) – Southern Cross University
Plenary ~ Theatre	<b>The Battle for Biology</b>	<b>Robert Hinrichsen</b> Large scale vegetable production, Kalfresh Farms - Fassifern Valley, Kalbar QLD.
	<b>Why We Need Healthy Soils and Biological Farming</b> <i>Farming systems and practices to support soil health</i>	<b>Jeff Moyer</b> Executive Director – Rodale Institute, Pennsylvania USA, Rodale Farm Manager (30 Yrs), Author – <i>Organic No-till Farming</i> , Expert in organic and biological farming systems
	<b>Morning Tea in the Expo</b>	
11.20 to 12.20pm Plenary ~ Theatre	<b>Changing Culture by The Acre in the WA Wheat Belt</b>	<b>Nick Kelly</b> Broadacre minimum till/no-till cropping farmer, ‘Holland Track Farm’, Newdegate, WA
	<b>Healthy Soils Result in Healthy Crops, Livestock and People</b>	<b>Professor Carlo Leifert</b> Director – Centre for Organics Research, Southern Cross University
	<b>Lunch in the Expo</b>	
1.20 to 2.40pm Plenary ~ Theatre	<b>Enhancing Farm Biodiversity</b> <i>Creating resilience in a vineyard production system</i>	<b>Dan Falkenberg</b> Vineyard manager and viticulturalist, Eden Hall Vineyards, Eden Valley, SA
	<b>Soil Redemption Story</b> <i>Fascinating biological connections make for a healthy farm ecosystem</i>	<b>Michael Phillips</b> Orchardist, educator and author of <i>The Holistic Orchard &amp; Mycorrhizal Planet</i> - ‘Lost Nation Orchard’, New Hampshire, USA

Book on-line for the Conference, Pre-conference Tours and Post Conference Workshops  
[www.australianbiologicalfarmingconference.org](http://www.australianbiologicalfarmingconference.org)

Saturday 10 November 2018 ~ Australian Biological Farming Conference and Expo 2018

	Afternoon tea in the Expo	
3.30 to 5.00PM	<b>5 Concurrent Sessions</b>	
Session 1	<b>Soil Biology for Grazing Productivity and Animal Health</b> <i>Harnessing the potential of Soil Biology</i> <i>Dung Beetles and Nematophagous Fungi, Duddingtonia flagrans</i>	<b>Dr Bernard Doube</b> Director – Dung Beetle Solutions Australia, Bridgewater SA <b>Chris Lawlor</b> CEO – International Animal Health, Huntington NSW
Session 2	<b>Bio-diverse Ecosystems in Vineyards and applications for production landscapes</b> <i>'Hero' native insectary plants providing ecosystem services, including beneficial insect habitat</i>	<b>Mary Retallack</b> Viticulturist/Managing Director – Retallack Viticulture, Crafters West, SA <b>Dan Falkenberg</b> Vineyard manager and viticulturist, Eden Hall Vineyards – Eden Valley, SA
Session 3	<b>Transition to Biological Farming Practices in Large Scale Vegetable Production</b> <i>Cover crop species selection for nutrition and pest suppression</i>	<b>Jeff Moyer</b> Executive Director - Rodale Institute, Pennsylvania USA; Rodale Farm Manager (30 Yrs), Author – <i>Organic No-till Farming</i> , Expert in organic and biological farming systems
Session 4	<b>Monitoring Soil in a Biological Farming Systems</b> <i>What is your soil test telling you?</i>	<b>Graham Lancaster</b> Managing Director – Environmental Analysis Laboratory, Lismore NSW <b>Alan Coates</b> Educator, Consultant and IPM Specialist – Coates Horticulture, NSW & QLD
Session 5	<b>On-Farm Compost Making and Usage</b> <i>Design and management parameters for quality outcomes</i>	<b>Dave Forrest</b> Educator, Consultant and Organic Farmer – 'Organic Forrest' Federal NSW <b>Geoff Bugden</b> Pioneer Biological Pecan Farmer - Wilson River Pecans, 'The Big Pecan', Boat Harbour NSW
5.30 to 7.30 PM	<b>Drinks in the Expo followed by buffet dinner.</b>	

Sunday 11 November 2018 ~ Australian Biological Farming Conference and Expo 2018

9.00 to 10.30 AM	<b>5 Concurrent Sessions</b>	
Session 1	<b>Restoring Life and Resilience to Tired Grasslands</b> <i>Regenerating Land with Livestock and managing natural cycles for soil health and animal production</i>	<b>Dr Judi Earl</b> Pasture Ecologist, Consultant & Farmer – ‘Glen Orton’, Coolatai NSW <b>Henry Sheehan</b> Manager, Figtrees Organic Farms, Pasture fed beef – ‘Wilton Park’, Grafton NSW
Session 2	<b>The Great Mineral Debate</b> <i>Can biology provide what a degraded soil needs?</i>	<b>Michael Phillips</b> Orchardist, Educator and Author - ‘Lost Nation Orchard’, New Hampshire, USA
Session 3	<b>Weed Management on Biological Farms</b> <i>Maintaining soil health when managing ground cover and crops</i>	<b>Dave Forrest</b> Educator, Consultant and Organic Farmer - Federal NSW <b>Rod Bruin</b> Organic Vegetable Farmer – Summit Organics, Tyalgum NSW
Session 4	<b>Advanced Compost Production from Rodale Institute</b> <i>Separating the “feel good” from the “real good” - Remote from Pennsylvania</i>	<b>Rick Carr</b> Compost Production Specialist, Rodale Institute, Pennsylvania USA
Session 5	The Centre for Organics Research is a joint initiative between NSW DPI and Southern Cross University. This session presents Research and Development projects at the Centre for Organics Research (COR). For a detailed summary of these projects visit the conference website.	
	<p>1. <i>Precision Organic Fertiliser - Improving soil fertility, and crop health and quality</i> <u>Carlo Leifert</u>, Johannes Biala, Terry Rose, Adam Willson, Graham Lancaster</p> <p>2. <i>Crop agronomy- developing agronomic and crop breeding innovations to improve crop health, nutritional quality, consumer demand and economic performance</i> <u>Terry Rose</u>, Adam Willson, Bronwyn Barkla, Marcin Baranski, Tobias Kretzschmar, Carlo Leifert and Graham King</p> <p>3. <i>Livestock: developing feeding, husbandry and breed selection innovations to optimise animal health, product quality, consumer demand and economic performance</i> <u>Carlo Leifert</u>, Marcin Barański, Lorraine Gordon, and Bronwyn Barkla</p>	<p><b>Facilitator: Adam Willson</b></p> <p><b>Johannes Biala</b> Organic waste management and composting consultant</p> <p><b>Professor Carlo Leifert</b> Southern Cross University, Director of Centre for Organics Research</p>
	Morning tea in the Expo	

Sunday 11 November 2018 ~ Australian Biological Farming Conference and Expo 2018

11.30AM to 1.00PM	<b>6 Concurrent Sessions</b>	
Session 1	<b>Where to from Here - Farming Together</b> Farm Cooperatives and Collaboration Program	<b>Lorraine Gordon</b> - Program Director Farming Together, advocate for agriculture and rural communities
Session 2	<b>Biological Alchemy</b> Have we ignored basic soil biology and disturbed ecosystems at our own peril?	<b>Michael Phillips</b> Orchardist, Educator and Author - 'Lost Nation Orchard, New Hampshire, USA
Session 3	<b>Transitioning to Integrated Pest Management In Large Scale Vegetable Production</b> A blueprint for change in production horticulture	<b>Dale Abbott</b> Consultant and Director- Bowen Crop Monitoring, Bowen QLD <b>Dan Papacek</b> Entomologist and Director – Bugs for Bugs, Toowoomba QLD <b>Andrew Shaw</b> - Project Coordinator of EnviroVeg - AUSVEG
Session 4	<b>Albrecht Soil Mineral Balancing</b> Identifying limiting factors to soil health, animal health and farm productivity	<b>Derek Smith</b> Farmer, Educator and Consultant – 'Working with Nature', Guyra NSW <b>Peter Norwood</b> Agronomist, Animal & Human Nutritionist – Full Circle Nutrition, Maffra, VIC
Session 5	<b>Sweet Outcomes - Regenerating Cane Land</b> Strategies for rebuilding soil through natural processes	<b>Alan Coates</b> Educator, Consultant and IPM Specialist – Coates Horticulture, NSW & QLD <b>Robert Quirk</b> Cane Farmer, Carbon Farmer and Environmentalist – Murwillumbah NSW <b>Simon Mattsson</b> Multi-species cropping Cane farmer, Nuffield Scholar – 'Marian', Mackay QLD
Session 6	<b>No-till Management</b> Incorporating pasture and livestock into grain production - armed with new technologies and tools based on sound biological principles, organic producers can begin to reduce or even eliminate tillage within their production system	<b>Jeff Moyer</b> Executive Director - Rodale Institute, Pennsylvania USA
Lunch in the Expo		
2.30 to 4.20 PM	<b>The Circular Nutrient Economy for a World Without Waste and Pollution</b>	<b>Professor Susanne Schmidt</b> School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Queensland
Plenary ~ Theatre	<b>Next Generation Agriculture and the Importance of Little Things in Life</b> The importance of interactions with micro-organisms for the health and well being of all plants and animals	<b>Dr Neil Wilson</b> Research Fellow – Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, Sydney University
	<b>Conference Closing</b>	<b>SoilCare</b> <b>Please note this program is subject to change.</b>